

42

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/161,283	MAEKAWA, TOMOHIRO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Kevin R Kruer	1773	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--
 All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the After-Final amendment filed January 11, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,5,8-12 and 15-23.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 28 September 1998 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).


* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>5/13/2002</u> 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>1/25/2005</u>. 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
|---|--|


DEBORAH JONES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

Enclosed herein is an initialed copy of the information disclosure statement field May 12, 2003. The reference listed on said IDS was originally considered in the Office Action mailed May 21, 2003. A review of the file, however, determined that an initialed copy of said IDS was not of record.

Examiner's Amendment

The application has been amended as follows:

The abstract has been deleted and the following abstract has been inserted in place thereof:

- - The present invention provides a laminated extruded resin sheet comprising a methyl methacrylate resin produced by laminating resin layers (B) on both surfaces of a resin layer (A) by a multilayer-extrusion molding method, the resin layer (A) being made by dispersing uniformly 0 to 50 parts by weight of a rubber-like polymer into 100 parts by weight of a methyl methacrylate resin, and the resin layer (B) being made by dispersing uniformly 1 to 50 parts by weight of an insoluble methyl methacrylate resin particle having a weight-average particle size of 1 to 100um into 100 parts by weight of a base resin comprising 100 parts by weight of a methyl methacrylate resin and 0 to 70 parts by weight of a rubber-like polymer. The laminated extruded resin sheet of the present invention provides a molded article having smaller bias of thickness in secondary thermoforming. - -

Art Unit: 1773

In the fourth line of claim 18, - - (i)- - has been inserted before the word "consisting."

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1, 2, 5, 8-12 and 15-23 are allowable over the prior art.

The closest prior art is JP 55-034924A (herein referred to as Toyooka), WO97/30117 (Tadokoro), and Koizumi et al (US 6,309,739).

Toyooka teaches a decorated methacrylic resin plate comprising printed polyalkyl methacrylate films on both sides of a molded methyl methacrylate polymer layer (abstract). Tadokoro teaches a printed or colored decorative surface film (col 2, lines 37+ and col 4, lines 27+) comprising 95-5wt% polymethyl methacrylate and 5-50wt% of a multilayer-structured methyl methacrylate elastomer particle (abstract). Koizumi teaches that when dispersing crosslinked multilayer-structured acrylate elastomer particles in an alkyl methacrylate polymer (abstract), the particle size should be 0.5-15um in order to control the film's matting effect, impact resistance, transparency, and flex whitening resistance (col 9, lines 17+).

The claims are allowable over the prior art because the prior art fails to teach or render obvious a laminated resin sheet comprising the claimed resin layers (B) on both surfaces of the claimed resin layer (A). Specifically, the prior art fails to teach or render obvious resin layers (B) wherein the particles are obtained by a one-stage polymerization of a monomer composition containing 50% by weight or more of methyl methacrylate. As noted in the 37 CFR 1.132 Declaration filed by Tomohiro Maekawa on

August 6, 2004, at least a two-stage procedure is required to obtain the crosslinked multilayer-structured acrylate elastomer particles taught in Tadokoro and Koizumi (see paragraph 8 of the declaration). Therefore, the prior art fails to teach or render obvious the claimed multi-layer laminate wherein resin layers (B) comprise particles obtained by a one-stage polymerization of a monomer composition containing 50% by weight or more of methyl methacrylate.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

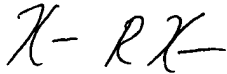
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin R Kruer whose telephone number is 571-272-1510. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Deborah Jones can be reached on 571-272-1535. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 1773

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Kevin R. Kruer
Patent Examiner-Art Unit 1773



DEBORAH JONES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER